

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

MINNESOTA LIFE INSURANCE  
COMPANY,

Plaintiff,

v.

SHERMAN WALKER et al.,

Defendants.

CASE NO. 2:24-cv-01169-LK

ORDER DENYING JOINT  
STIPULATED MOTION FOR  
ENTRY OF JUDGMENT AND  
DISCHARGE IN INTERPLEADER

This matter comes before the Court on the parties’ Joint Stipulated Motion for Entry of Judgment and Discharge in Interpleader. Dkt. No. 35. Although the parties are free to enter into agreements among themselves—settlement and otherwise—they may not seek orders overstepping this Court’s authority in interpleader actions. By way of example, the parties ask that the Court permanently enjoin Defendants from suing not only Minnesota Life, but also “its predecessors, successors, affiliates, parent corporations, employees, officers and agents,” in federal or state court “with respect to the terms of the Policy, the Death Benefit payable under the Policy, and/or the death of the Decedent as to all claims, charges, demands, or otherwise that exist

1 now or may arise at any time in the future.” *Id.* at 4. Although the Court is empowered to discharge  
2 a plaintiff from further liability in any civil interpleader action, 28 U.S.C. § 2361, “[a]n injunction  
3 . . . may extend only to claims to the interpleaded funds, which are the only things within the  
4 Court’s interpleader jurisdiction,” *see, e.g., Securian Life Ins. Co. v. Gillis*, No. 4:23-CV-03585-  
5 KAW, 2024 WL 1199016, at \*5 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 20, 2024) (citing cases and noting that “the Court  
6 cannot properly enjoin all claims that relate to the Policy.”).

7 For the reasons explained above, the Court DENIES the parties’ Joint Stipulated Motion  
8 for Entry of Judgment and Discharge in Interpleader. Dkt. No. 35. To the extent the parties seek  
9 to renew their motion in the future, they are encouraged to seek only that relief needed to dismiss  
10 Minnesota Life from this case within the bounds of this Court’s authority.

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12 Dated this 5th day of February, 2025.

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14 Lauren King  
15 United States District Judge  
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